

ICOMON REPORT 2011 for INC

Christel Schollaardt reports:

The XVIIth Annual meeting of ICOMON was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 10–13th, kindly hosted by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation. About 45 members of ICOMON were present.

The meeting's theme was "Money Museums communicating with the Public". In three days, 17 papers were presented, divided in the following sessions: museums, banks, educational, collections and history.

On the first day, Lara Schwarz from the Geldmuseum in Utrecht, the Netherlands, reflected on the new course of the museum by presenting the new corporate identity; Effrosyni Nomikou, Joelle Bouvry and Karen Lee all presented insights based on research among the audience in the Museum Session. In the Bank Session Jennifer Adam from the Museum of the Bank of England shared their means of reaching out to the public, as did Hasti Dwilputranti from the Bank of Indonesia. Gerasimos Notaras of the Historical Archives of the Bank of Greece told about creating a research centre for the Greek Banknote.

The first day ended with the festive opening of a new exhibition on the premises of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation: "How much does it cost: Our daily bread from Ancient to Modern Times".

The second day started with a very interesting excursion to the old town Nicosia Museums.

In the afternoon Amelia Dowler talked in the Educational session about the very successful Summerschool program of the British Museum, and Maria Lempessi and Eleni Papaefthymiou about the educational projects conducted at the numismatic museums in Greece. During the Collections Session we were informed about the museum of the Bank of Russia by Galina Efremova, and Anne Destrooper told about numismatic research in the collections of the department of antiquities of Cyprus. In the History Session Francine Farr told us all about a fascinating project on broadcasting the bridge between the bead and the coin, and our Chinese colleague Weirong Zhou about the copper-based coins in ancient China.

The morning of the third day was devoted to the presentation of special projects. Despina Pilides presented "Digitizing the collections of the Department of Antiquities in Cyprus", Karla Santos de Sa talked about the museological plan as an essential strategic tool to the Money Museum of the Central Bank of Brazil, and Walter Bloom about his mintmarks and mintmasters project. Later in the morning a round table discussion, chaired by Lefki Michaelidou and Amelia Dowler led to fruitful and meaningful discussions about the interesting things we heard during the last couple of days.

The ICOMON General Assembly led to a new effort: several new Special Projects were formulated:

- How to write readable texts on specialized subjects: Effrosyni Nomikou is leading.
- Setting up an ICOMON Summerschool: Amelia Dowler
- Setting up a website on exchanging exhibitions: volunteers wanted
- Electronic databases on numismatic objects: volunteers wanted.

The Money Museums World List is in progress, the website booming, the conservational survey and manual on its way, all to be expected in 2012.

The proceedings of this meeting will be published in due time on the ICOMON website. The board likes to point out that ICOMON is especially meant for the museological aspects of numismatic collections, and therefore we strive to have as many papers on this subject during the annual meetings as we can. In our view, the INC Congress is dealing with exchanging numismatic research as such.

The ICOMON meeting of 2012 will be held in Rabat, Morocco, courtesy of the Bank Al-Mahgreeb, in 2013 we will meet during the ICOM assembly in Rio de Janeiro, in 2014 we will be in Belgrade, Serbia, in 2015 together with INC at the International Numismatic Congress in Taormina and in 2016, the Bank of Indonesia in Jakarta will be our host.